

August 30th, 2020



## Session 4

5:1-13

In chapter 5, we've learned how important our Christian community is to our personal growth as well as to the overall maturity of the church. We were never meant to live this Christian life alone. We are meant to walk alongside each other not just for comfort, but also to address each other's sins.

Jesus hates sin and so should we.

This week think about these questions: How can you be more vulnerable this week about a certain sin in your life? Who can you talk to this week about holding each other accountable for that sin?

### 1. Weeding Out Sin

Paul spends a lot of time in 1 Corinthians 5 discussing the weeding out of sin from among the church.

Read Exodus 12:1-20. As you read, write down or take note of what you notice about the feast of unleavened bread. Notice the instruction that God gave regarding the unleavened and leavened bread in the household.

**What happened to the person who had leaven found in their home? What type of bread was supposed to be eaten?**

During the feast of unleavened bread, there was to be no yeast found in any of the bread or the house. Yeast was a symbol of sin—the absence of yeast symbolized an absence of sin.

**What does the requirement for an absence of yeast in Exodus and the requirement for an absence of sin among the church in 1 Corinthians show us about God's character?**

Yeast pores were known to migrate easily, which meant that any dough in the house could accidentally become leavened. **What would have happened if the Israelites didn't completely remove the yeast? In what ways does the image of yeast display our inability to hide anything from God?**

The people of Israel in Exodus 12 were saved by the blood over the doorpost. The Corinthian church members had been saved by the blood of Jesus. In both cases, God provided a way for His people to remove the sin from their lives, because of His desire for us to be holy like Him. **How should God's work to rid us of sin prompt us live boldly for Him? What kind of daily habits could bring us closer to a bold and holy life?**

## **2. Passover Lamb**

In 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Paul talks about removing sexual sin from the congregation by referencing the feast of unleavened bread and the Passover lamb.

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8.

**What is Paul telling the Corinthians by referencing leavened and unleavened bread?**

The feast of unleavened bread was celebrated along with Passover. During the feast of unleavened bread all of the yeast was to be removed from any bread and every house. Yeast was a common symbol for sin—Paul wants the Corinthians to remove sin from their lives and church.

**What kind of outcome does Paul desire for a community that removes people in willful, unrepentant sin?**

Read Exodus 12:1-13.

**According to verses 5-11, what was the Passover lamb and what were the rules for finding and using it? Why was this lamb significant in the lives of the Israelites during this time?**

Paul makes clear that Christ is the final Passover lamb, who has already died for all sin. **How was the willful sin of the Corinthians an act of ignoring Christ's finished work?**

If we're honest, we've all been like the Corinthians and tolerated the sin in our lives. **In what areas of life have you allowed sinful behavior to remain in your life? What could it look like to repent from that sin this week? Who can you call for support?**

### **3. God Takes Sin Seriously**

The Corinthians were told to remove the sin from their midst by getting rid of the sexually immoral man that was sleeping with his stepmother. Paul might sound a bit harsh when he tells the Corinthians to remove the evil person from among them, but he's referring to a command that God has established long before the Corinthian church existed.

Paul uses the phrase, "remove the evil person from among you," which is used all throughout the book of Deuteronomy.

Take a moment and read Deuteronomy 13:5; 17:7; 19:19; 21:21; 22:21; and 24:7.

**What is the common message between each of these verses? Why do you think God commanded it as often as He did?**

God's view of sin is clear—he hates it. And He wants us to have nothing to do with it, especially those who willingly participate in sin or commend those who do. But more than anything, we should learn from our mistakes and the mistakes of others.

**What could it look like for us to take sin as seriously as God does? How would it affect our personal lives? The church?**

**How does conviction play into this scenario? What does it say about our hearts if we aren't convicted by seeing the expulsion of a church member sinning as we have?**

**What could it look like for you to remind a loved one about God's grace in the midst of their struggle with sin? How can your prayers be a display of God's grace to them?**

Take a moment and imagine what life would be like if you were completely transparent about your sin, never having to worry about the feeling of "getting caught." You wouldn't have to worry about getting called out, and possibly going through what the Corinthians were going through—removing people from their congregation. **What's keeping you from living that way now?**

## **4. Peek at the Greek: Judging Others**

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13.

**What is Paul saying about judging others?**

The Greek word for "judge" is *krino*, which carries a legal undertone. It means to determine if something is right or wrong or if a person is guilty or not guilty. In many

cases, we tend to think the word "judge" means criticizing someone about their decisions or condemning them and making them feel bad. But in this case, Paul is talking about the black and white issue of what is right or wrong according to God's standard.

Paul says that God is the one who judges those who aren't following Jesus. **In what ways does this reminder help us understand our responsibility versus God's?**

Jesus is our judge with full authority and now we're able to live with no condemnation. **In what ways can this truth help someone who feels condemned about sin? What does it look like to reflect this truth in your life?**

We tend to judge outsiders as if they are privy to our lifestyle, convictions, and beliefs. We judge them based on things they do, even though they have no love for God.

**How can this type of judgment be harmful to an unbeliever wanting to learn about Christ?**

**In what ways can ceasing from judging unbelievers give us more empathy for them?**

As Christians, we tend to see other people's sins rather than seeing what's in our own spiritual mirror. That's because it's a lot more comfortable to judge others rather than ourselves. **What could you do this week to push through the uncomfortable task of addressing any habitual sin in your life?**